



DECISION MEMO
CHELEY CAMP SPECIAL USE AUTHORIZATION
OUTFITTER AND GUIDE PERMIT REISSUANCE

U.S. FOREST SERVICE
ARAPAHO & ROOSEVELT NATIONAL FORESTS AND PAWNEE
NATIONAL GRASSLAND
CANYON LAKES RANGER DISTRICT
BOULDER AND LARIMER COUNTIES, COLORADO
PROJECT ID # 57688

DECISION

I have decided to implement the reissuance of Cheley Colorado Camps 10-year Priority Permit for outfitting and guiding.

The project is located in Boulder and Larimer counties, Colorado.

This activity falls within a category of actions which normally do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment and, therefore, may be categorically excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. This category of actions is identified in 36 CFR 220.6(e)(15) - Issuance of a new special use authorization for a new term to replace an existing or expired special use authorization when the only changes are administrative, there are not changes to the authorized facilities or increases in the scope or intensity of authorized activities, and the applicant or holder is in full compliance with the terms and conditions of the special use authorization.

This category of action(s) is applicable because there are no changes from the previous permit allowing non-motorized use on Canyon Lakes Ranger District including hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, pack trips, and mountain biking. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment.

I find that there are no extraordinary circumstances that would warrant further analysis and documentation in an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment. I took into account resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist:

- Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species – This project is geographically widespread enough that federally listed threatened or endangered species and habitat are present where activities would occur. This use is existing with no new uses or habitat alteration so no effect is expected.
- Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds – No regulatory floodplains or wetlands applicable to this project. The project occurs in the vicinity of municipal watersheds and no effect is expected.
- Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas – Part of the projects activities will occur in the Comanche Peak Wilderness. No changes are authorized to this existing permit and existing uses so no new impacts are expected. The current permit currently allows 18 heartbeats per group, which is not in alignment with wilderness standards. Thus, the permit should be amended to ensure that only 12 heartbeats are included in a group at one time.
- Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas – None applicable to this project.
- Research natural areas – None applicable to this project.
- American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites – None applicable to this project.
- Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas None applicable to this project.

In addition, native plants and plant communities occur in vicinity of the project activities. It is determined that minor impacts could occur. To mitigate effects, the permit should be amended to include the use of pellet feed for stock animals rather than hay.

Summary of permit changes for the purposes of resource protection or alignment with current regulations:

- The permit should be amended to ensure that only 12 heartbeats are included in a group at one time; and
- The permit should be amended to include the use of pellet feed for stock animals rather than hay.

INTERESTED AND AFFECTED AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONS CONTACTED

This action was originally listed as a proposal on the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) and updated periodically during the analysis. No external comments were received.



FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND CONSISTENCY WITH LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

This project is consistent with the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland 1997 Revision of the Land and Resource Management Plan and Amendments as required by the National Forest Management Act. This project is also consistent with other laws and regulations.

APPEAL OPPORTUNITIES

This decision is not subject to appeal or objection.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

Implementation may occur immediately.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

For additional information concerning this decision, contact: Laura Shaffer, Recreation Program Manager, Canyon Lakes Ranger District, Arapaho & Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland, laura.c.shaffer@usda.gov or 970-295-6720.

Kathleen K. Donahue

District Ranger

Canyon Lakes Ranger District

Date

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.